[Mr. C. P. Kochukunju Pillai.]

Sir, as is very well known to this Council, the object of giving notice of resolutions is as much to get subjects threshed out in all their details as it is to secure their acceptance by the House in their entirety.

I may also mention one other circumstance. Although it is some days since I gave notice of the resolution, although it has been published in the papers, not a single individual, not even Mr. Raman Pillai told me that it was a wrong resolution—

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI: He did not ask me

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI: ..... and that I should withdraw. On the other hand, a number of people, about ten or twelve of my friends here, whose names I do not wish to mention, told me that it was a very necessary resolution. (*Laughter.*) Now, I have attained the object with which I gave notice of this resolution, *i. e.*, impressing upon Government the necessity to pick out the very best men, so that their action may be above reproach. As soon as I gave notice of this resolution, I went and saw the Dewan and told him that there was a resolution like this and that he should not appoint Bench Magistrates till my resolution had been considered by the Council. The Dewan, with his characteristic consideration, told me that this was a tentative measure and that it would be confined to six or seven places. Well, Sir, on account of that assurance, I have made up my mind to withdraw my resolution, because it is only a tentative measure. My object was, as I already observed, to impress upon the Government the urgent and important necessity of selecting good men and to adopt such other safeguards in making the administration of justice consistent with the liberal policy pursued by them.

PRESIDENT: I do not think I said that it was a tentative measure. I remember I said that it would be started in a few places and that, as experience was gained, further extension would be decided on.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI: That was what I meant by a tentative measure. I withdraw my motion.

The resolution was, by leave, withdrawn.

RESOLUTION *RE.* PRINTING AND PUBLICATION OF VERNACULAR TEXT-BOOKS BY GOVERNMENT.

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI: Sir, I beg to move the following resolution:

"That this Council recommends to the Government that text-books in the vernacular for use in schools be printed and published by Government."

In moving this resolution for the acceptance of this House, I wish to say a few words in support of it. This is not the first time when, nor the first place where, this subject of vernacular text-books has been brought before the public or the Government. In the Council, in the Assembly, in the press, and on the platform, vernacular text-books have been the subject of interpellations, representations, and sharp and

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pungent criticisms. Government have tried to remedy the evils by reorganising the Text-book Committies several times. But still some evils remain and I wish to suggest to the House that the evils can all be remedied, if the publication of vernacular text-books can be undertaken by Government.

The first thing I should like to point out is that it is not to the best interests of our country that the vernacular readers and some history and geography text-books in the vernacular are published through foreign agencies. The readers, though published by Messrs. Macmillan & Co. were *all* written by our own authors and are printed in the Mangalore press, and the Malayalam books, though published by Messrs. Longmans, Green & Co., are printed in the C. M. S. Press, Kottayam. Yet the enormous gain that accrues out of these publications goes to enrich these foreign agencies. If, on the other hand, the Government would undertake the printing and publication of these books, all the profit would go to the Government and fructify in their hands to the great prosperity of the people.

We were speaking of the methods of increasing our revenue in the last session of the Council. Want of funds has stood in the way of increasing the pay of our poor but useful vernacular teachers. If the method suggested is adopted by Government, it will be a sure means of adding substantially to the State fund.

I can give here the strength of the several classes where readers were required in the vernacular schools during 1096. The figures for 1097 are not yet published.

Class	I	1,26,585	Class	V	11,691
,,	II	86,512	,,	VI	6,429
,,	III	65,703			
,,	IV	46,642		Total	3,43,562

On a very moderate calculation one can find that there can be a gain of not less than a lakh of rupees. This gain which ought to have legitimately gone to the Government now goes to the pockets of foreign firms.

I understand that the Malayalam branch of the Government Press has not got sufficient work at present. Moreover, we see that a Committee will be sitting to study how to reorganise the working of this institution. When the Press is reorganised, I am sure that it will be able to turn out more work than it does at present and that the printing of Malayalam text-books can also be done there. The Government now undertakes, through the Education Department, the stocking and selling of the readers published by Messrs. Macmillan & Co. Is it a heavy addition to the task to undertake the printing and publication of the same also? In view of the great issues at stake, I hold that the additional burden will be light and can be easily borne. Before giving the contract to Messrs. Macmillan & Co., the printing and publication of readers were done by Government.

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[The President.]

Of course, the companies' agents may not like my proposal. But I am not a printer, nor a publisher, nor a book-seller. But I have a great interest in the welfare of the country and its people and in the progress of education in this State. So I propose that, when the period of contract, with these companies expires, the printing and publication of the vernacular readers should be undertaken by our Government.

It is satisfactory to know that the Government have begun to get the vernacular copy books printed in our Press. I also understand that the copy books sold by Messrs. Longmans, Green & Co. at 2 chs. and 11 cash per copy are going to be sold by Government at 2 chs. the Government still making a profit of about Rs. 20,000 a year. Thus the business is beneficial both to the public and the Government. Similarly, the readers and other text-books also can be printed and published by the Government benefiting both the children and the State substantially. Here I may suggest that the Government, when they undertake the printing and publication of vernacular readers, should issue a new set, simple and more co-ordinated. The present readers are not well graded and some are a bit hard for the standards intended in point of language and subject-matter.

Now I pass on to the other text-books prescribed from time to time. The authors of vernacular books were growing recently like mushrooms. This growth was accelerated by the fact that, by writing a small story book of 20 pages or so and getting it prescribed for any one of the first four classes of vernacular schools, an author could make a fortune of Rs. 2,000 to Rs. 5,000. The writing of the book was only the work of a few hours and the combined efforts of the author and his publisher were often successful in getting it prescribed as a text-book. The Text-book Committee table was flooded with such books. At one time the committee was forced to recommend a large number of books for each class from which the head-master or the inspecting officers had to select. There was thus a mad run for getting the fame of an author and the fortunes of an adventurous writer. The present administration has discouraged the mushroom growth of those authors by prescribing only the readers up to class IV.

PRESIDENT: I do not know whether this is quite relevant to the resolution. You are talking about authors. That does not arise here.

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI: Then I shall omit it. It may be contended that—

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: If that ruling is open to argument, I shall show that it is relevant.

PRESIDENT: There is nothing in the resolution in regard to the writing of text-books. I must hold that that does not arise here.

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MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI: My reference was about the old system of getting books written and published.

PRESIDENT: Well, I am afraid it is not quite relevant either, because the wording of the resolution relates to the printing and publication of text-books. However well considered these remarks and however acceptable they may be, I must hold that they are not relevant here.

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI: In regard to the argument that the existing system of publication of books will enrich our poor literature and that Government interference will check such growth, I have it from learned critics that the recent output of books was mostly trash and that such productions, instead of enriching our literature, have only made it unhealthy and sickly. Our literature was not very rich, I may admit, but it was healthy, and it had classical works in all branches, *viz.*, in dramas, കിളിപ്പാട്ട്, തുള്ളൽ, ചമ്പു, novels, etc. Can anything approaching any of these be pointed out in the recent output except short and ephemeral books? No new idea or style is brought into literature by most of these books, but only undigested, indigestible, ill-suited and badly produced stuff. For the most part, translations have been introduced, spoiling the tender minds, instead of invigorating, refreshing and enriching them. It cannot be otherwise since the authors' or publishers' sole aim was to make as much money as possible with the minimum effort and in the shortest time. The producers of good literature had never been rich and they seldom worked for money.

PRESIDENT: All that offends my ruling.

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI: I mention all this in answer to the contention that the present system enriches Malayalam literture.

PRESIDENT: There is no such contention. Your proposition does not relate to the manner in which these text-books should be produced. Whether a committee should be appointed or whether Government should write text-books or get it done by authors—that question does not arise at all from your resolution.

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI: The old Text-book Committee presided over by the late Valia Koil Tampuran had produced excellent readers and books like *Vijnanamanjari*. These can be reprinted with the necessary additions. Selections from പഞ്ചതന്ത്രം, ഇതിഹാസസമുച്ചയം, പതിനാലുവൃത്തം, തുള്ളൽ, and dramas, etc., can be made and fresh books written on scientific and technical subjects; and the copyright of good books can be secured from their authors.

This system, if adopted, will remove the great inequality that exists in the remuneration of short-story writers and that of great literary productions. It will also bring in a considerable amount of profit both to Government and to the public.

I, therefore, move this resolution for the acceptance of this Council.

MR. S. ADAM SAIT: Sir, I beg to second the motion.

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[Mr. L. C. Hodgson.]

MR. L. C. HODGSON: Sir, Mr. C. P. Kochukunju Pillai, in bringing this resolution before the Council, has touched upon one of the most difficult and, I might say, the most disagreeable and unpleasant functions that my department has had to deal with for many years.

During the last 7 years that I have had to deal with this matter, and in the time of my predecessors and even before that, the question of vernacular text-books has been a very disagreeable and unpleasant one. If I were to relate my own experience during the last 7 years in this matter, I could a tale unfold. I do not, however, propose to go into detail with regard to this. But I would like to mention a few of the points that have, during the last few years, come to my notice in connection with this matter and which make me feel that any other system that may be suggested is better than the present one. As Mr. Kochukunju Pillai has told us, the number of pupils in the vernacular schools comes to very nearly 3½ lakhs, and the fact that this large number of pupils have to be provided with text-books affords a very rich field of exploitation to one who has the pen of a ready writer. This opportunity is taken advantage of by countless authors and very quickly manifests itself in importunity on the part of authors and publishers alike. About the time when it is usual to prescribe these books one is besieged by authors and publishers. They dog one's footsteps and haunt one's doorstep, and I remember that once an enterprising writer followed me all the way to the sanitorium bungalow at Ponmudi.

PRESIDENT: May I interrupt? This has nothing to do with the printing and publishing of text-books by Government.

MR. L. C. HODGSON: What I mean to imply, Sir, is that, if the printing and publishing of vernacular text-books is carried out in the manner proposed by the member, it will do away with all these people and put an end to the exploitation of the schools by people who want to become rich quick and who have given the department a large amount of trouble for many years. That is one of the reasons why I said that any system that can be introduced will be preferable to the existing system. There are several other difficulties which we have to encounter with regard to text-books, but since the discussion is confined to the question of printing and publishing, I will not make mention of them. If, however, the question merely deals with the printing and publishing of text-books and does not relate to the authorship of these books, it presents some difficulty.

PRESIDENT: The resolution is so worded.

MR. L. C. HODGSON: In that case I will refer to one or two points mentioned by Mr. C. P. Kochukunju Pillai. He referred to certain evils some of which I have alreay dealt with. Another evil which he complains of is that by entrusting the printing and publishing of books to foreign companies money is taken out of the country. That is not a sound argument, *viz.*, that a thing should not be done because money goes into foreign hands. As a matter of political economy we have to see whether we get value for our money or not. If we get

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better value by putting the work of printing and publishing vernacular text-books into the hands of Messrs. Longmans or Messrs. Macmillan & Co., than we get from local persons, then the fact that money goes out of the country is not a sound argument against our doing so. Whether we actually do get our value by so doing or not is another question.

Mr. Kochukunju Pillai emphasises the fact that, by taking the printing and publishing of vernacular text-books for the departmental schools into the hands of Government, the Government will reap a rich reward of Rs. 50,000 or something like that. I may say that I very much hope that that will not be the case. I always have hitherto thought that Mr. Pillai was a friend of the poor pupils and their poor parents. If he contemplates making a handsome profit of Rs.50,000 for Government out of that measure, I fear that I can no longer regard him as being a friend of the poor. If the Government undertakes the printing and publishing of these books, I hope that it will be with one object, and that is to reduce the charge, to make the charge the lowest possible, compatible with the cost of printing and publishing in the interest of the poor pupils. As the subject is limited to the question of the printing and publishing of books by Government, I do not think that it is necessary for me to say anything more than to inform the member on behalf of the Government that, if it is found feasible, Government are prepared to accept the principle of his resolution. I must put in this reservation: "if it is found feasible". I do not know whether Mr. C. P. Kochukunju Pillai has made any computation of the amount of work that his proposal would involve. It will not be great as it would have been a year or two ago, because after struggling for several years to effect a reduction in the number of text-books prescribed for the pupils of vernacular schools, I have in the last year, thanks to your support, Sir, in the capacity of the Dewan, had the satisfaction of seeing a very considerable diminution in the number of text-books that are required in the first four classes. Indeed now, instead of being made to buy seven or eight books, they have to buy in the first four classes only one book. In those classes only a reading book is prescribed and for the other subjects no book is required. Thus we have done all that we can to reduce the burden of the pupils and of the parents in the matter of text-books. Notwithstanding this, the number of books that will have to be printed and published, if Mr. Kochukunju Pillai's resolution is adopted in its entirety, is very considerable. There are in the vernacular schools as many as 9 classes. Every class must at least have a reader. In the higher classes there must be books on poetry, grammar, arithmetic, history, and geography and on such subjects as agriculture, hygiene, and elementary science, totalling up for all the classes from I to IX to very nearly fifty. And in English schools there are seven classes, for which on the very lowest computation the minimum number of books comes to something like 30. That is a total of 80 books which will have to be printed and published, if Mr. Kochukunju Pillai's motion is to be accepted in its enitirety. I think that is asking a big thing to be undertaken by Government, *i.e.*, the printing and publishing of as many as 80 books, perhaps several more. At the

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[MR. T. K. Velu Pillai.]

present moment, owing to the wording of the resolution, we do not know what is going to be done in the matter of authorship. That may lead to further difficulties. Consequently, I think the best way would be to say on behalf of Government that we do not oppose the resolution but are prepared to carry out the principle so far as it may be found feasible.

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI: Sir, on the assurance that has been given just now by the Director of Public Instruction, I withdraw the resolution.

The resolution was, by leave, withdrawn.

RESOLUTION *RE.* ESTABLISHMENT OF A TEACHING AND RESIDENTIAL UNIVERSITY IN TRAVANCORE.

PRESIDENT: The next resolution relates to the establishment of a Teaching and residential university in Travancore. The resolution runs as follows:

"That this Council recommends to the Government the immediate necessity of establishing a teaching and residential University in Travancore and requests Government to take prompt action for the fulfilment of the above object."

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI: Sir, I beg to move the following resolution:

"That this Council recommends to the Government the immediate necessity of establishing a teaching and residential University in Travancore and requests Government to take prompt action for the fulfilment of the above object."

I am moving this resolution not for inviting a discussion as in the case of my former resolution, but to see that it is seriously taken up for consideration and accepted by the Council. I am glad to say that my position to-day—

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI: May I know why the mover wants to take away the word "immediate". I did not hear him mention it.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI: There is the word "immediate" in the printed paper. The President read it; I read it. If Mr. Raman Pillai sees any difficulty, I shall read it once more, and twenty times, if he wants to understand it. (*Laughter*)

I am glad to say that my position to-day is stronger than what I thought it would be when I gave notice of the resolution. The idea of a Travancore University necessarily involves our separation from the parent stem and at the first blush it is natural that we should be unwilling to be cut off from the educational activities of Madras. The thought necessarily strikes us that, if a Travancore University ever comes into being, it cannot be anything other than a feeble imitation of a bad model rendered feebler still by the stigmatised surroundings of an out-of-the-way town. I was personally of that same view when the late administration evinced interest in the subject by the appointment of a special committee and, as my opinion was found to be in agreement with those of several discerning men in Travancore, I opposed the idea in the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly. But I stand before you to-day with a different conviction and I may be permitted to say that the change has been caused by the wholesale transformation that has

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